

Eduardo Gonzalez
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November 15, 2018



El Concilio of San Mateo County



Inland Empire
Regional Broadband Consortium



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The Honorable Hector De La Torre
Mr. John Eisenhut
The Honorable Dean Florez
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Supervisor John Gioia
Senator Ricardo Lara
Councilmember Judy Mitchell
The Honorable Barbara Riordan
Supervisor Ron Roberts
Supervisor Phil Serna
Dr. Alexander Sherriffs
Dr. Daniel Sperling
Ms. Diane Takvorian
California Air Resources Board
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chair Nichols and Members of the California Air Resources Board:

We are community-based organizations (CBOs) experienced in reaching out to Disadvantaged Communities and promoting Digital Inclusion. We know first-hand the challenges of engaging low-income residents in-language and in-culture and have observed how difficult it is for our most vulnerable residents to receive information and public services if they are not online. Low-income unconnected and underconnected households are being left behind at an accelerating pace—unable to participate in most of the economy and literally being disenfranchised from the democracy. Thus, we commend and greatly appreciate your focus on Disadvantaged Communities and commitment to “equity” in the Draft Third Investment Plan. However, we also respectfully underscore that we don’t think it is possible to achieve the “equity” you seek without also embracing strategies for Digital Inclusion in every investment from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) as delineated by the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF).

We are grateful for the time that your staff has taken to read our Comments and meet with us to listen to our perspectives on the importance of Digital Inclusion. We are submitting this letter and testifying before you to urge you to go beyond that proposed Response in the Revised Draft Plan to embrace Digital Inclusion and to strongly encourage GGRF recipients and grantees to incorporate broadband deployment and adoption into 45545 programs and projects.



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Tech
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Community Inspired Solutions

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This Investment Plan will govern GGRF investments for the next 3 years and determine whether or not all State Agencies and grantees pull together to get connected all residents in Disadvantaged Communities so they can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving the State's Goals. Your visionary leadership is key to advancing Digital Inclusion at this moment in time. We urge bold action now.

Sincerely,

Glenna Barrett
Broadband and Business
Development, SBBC
Imperial Valley Economic
Development Corporation (IVEDC)

Kristin Connelly
Executive Director
Contra Costa Economic Partnership

Seth Hubbert
Executive Director
Tech Exchange

Ortensia Lopez
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Hugo Morales
Executive Director
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Chelsea Walterscheid
Program Coordinator, GCBC Project
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